

We also lost Ukrainian journalist Oleksandra “Sasha” Kuvshynova, who was serving as a consultant for FOX’s team in Ukraine. She was just 24 years old.

Their colleague, correspondent Benjamin Hall, was also injured, and he remains in the hospital.

Journalists know they face danger when they report from war zones. They put themselves in harm’s way to tell the world the true stories that we need to hear.

Today, the Presiding Officer from Minnesota joined me and dozens and dozens of others to see the video, the pictures, and the photos of the war in Ukraine, which were shown to us by President Zelenskyy. Those pictures—many of them—were taken by very courageous journalists who risked their own lives. They bring us the unvarnished truth, unfiltered by government propaganda, at the times when we need it most. They are committed to basic ideals of truth, accuracy, and transparency—so committed that they put their lives on the line to make sure the world knows what is happening. Their commitment to these ideals only makes their deaths that much more tragic.

Today, three families and so many colleagues are grieving for these three journalists, grieving losses that cannot be replaced. They shouldn’t have to.

This war was started by a man with no regard for the freedom of the press or basic human rights; a man who is a former KGB agent and has open contempt and hostility toward real reporters, toward real journalism, toward free speech; a man who presides over a regime wherein journalists are killed with impunity.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 28 journalists have been killed in Russia since Putin came to power 20 years ago, and 10 are currently in prison simply for telling the truth, for doing their jobs. According to Reporters Without Borders, Russia ranks 150 out of 199 countries for press freedom. They are actually behind Afghanistan and South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Last October, the United States and 18 other countries issued a statement, warning of “the Russian government’s intensifying harassment of independent journalists and media outlets in Russia.”

In 2020, the Russian Government began labeling many outside journalists as “media foreign agents”—a term reminiscent of the worst of the Cold War.

It is not just foreign journalists; Putin’s government has applied the “media foreign agent” label to independent Russian outlets in the country or to those operating near the country’s border—Russian reporters themselves. It goes against all of our values. It is the kind of authoritarianism that the Ukrainian people bravely fight every day now. They don’t want their country to turn into a place where re-

porters fear for their lives, where journalists can’t tell the public the truth. Journalists’ entire job is to ask questions, to challenge powerful interests, to—shall we say—afflict the comfortable.

Reporters put their safety and—as we saw with these three brave journalists in Ukraine—their lives on the line, whether it is covering floods and hurricanes in the United States or traveling the globe to bring us the stories of war zones.

We depend on reporters in my State and around the world to bring us the stories that impact our day-to-day lives and tell the stories that might not otherwise be told. They are too often under attack overseas increasingly. We recently had a President of the United States who attacked journalists in almost every stop.

As we all stand with the people of Ukraine, let’s recommit ourselves to fighting just as hard as they are for our values, for freedom of the press, for free speech. These three journalists made the ultimate sacrifice to show the world the heroism of the Ukrainian people. We pray that they are the last who have to do that.

We recognize that President Putin has been shocked by two things: shocked by the heroism of the Ukrainian people—those fighting back, those brave journalists, those freedom fighters, those mothers and fathers and children who have so courageously stood up against Russia; he is also shocked by the way President Biden so effectively has put together an international coalition, not just for the countries you would expect, but Germany, and Finland, and Sweden, and Switzerland—countries that have rarely chosen sides and stepped up the way that all of our countries have.

And while doing this, we send our sympathy and our gratitude to the families of Brent Renaud, to Pierre Zakrzewski, to Oleksandra Kuvshynova. They died doing the vital heroic work they love. We have a better understanding of this invasion, of the war crimes being committed, of how it is affecting people’s lives. We have a better understanding because of journalists like them, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

REMEMBERING FRED ABDALLA

Madam President, I would like to remember an Ohio public servant whom we lost this year, longtime friend of mine, Jefferson County Sheriff—Eastern Ohio, along the Pennsylvania-West Virginia line, along the Ohio River—Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla.

He took office in January 1985. He served his community ever since for nearly four decades, in his sheriff’s car, going up and down the river, going to Mingo Junction and Tiltonsville to Steubenville, to Wintersville—all over Jefferson County. He served that community.

His colleagues and his neighbors called him tough but big-hearted. He was particularly passionate about solv-

ing crimes against children and seniors.

His chief deputy, Susan Bell, worked with Sheriff Abdalla for 32 years. She said:

He and I had a lot of cases together. He laughed a lot. . . . We cried a lot. . . . We worked as a team.

His colleagues at the department posted a moving remembrance of Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla. They wrote:

Although we miss you dearly, we will carry on as you’ve taught us to do in the face of adversity. One of the last “working sheriffs,” you were always involved and answered calls with your staff. You led by example. [You] never ordered a deputy to do something you would not do yourself.

Our thoughts are with his family, with the people of Jefferson County. His passing is a real loss for my State, for all who knew him. His dedication to his community will not be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Fred Abdalla.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JOHN H. CHUN

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor this evening to support the nomination of John Chun, who is to serve as judge for the U.S. District Court of Western Washington, and I know that we will be voting later tonight on that nomination.

I was proud to recommend to President Biden Judge Chun, who then was nominated by the President. My colleague Senator MURRAY and I know what a qualified individual he is to serve our country.

He has spent his entire legal career practicing law in the Western District of Washington, making him deeply knowledgeable of the district that he will serve. He is well-prepared for the Western District and offers a unique perspective to the bench, having served as a superior court judge for 4 years before joining the court of appeals in 2018, as well as his tenure in private practice.

Through his extensive courtroom experience as a former trial judge and current appellate judge, he has had much time as a trial litigator. He will be ready on day one to serve effectively on the Federal district court bench.

Judge Chun has received profound support for his nomination to the U.S. district court. Not only did his nomination receive bipartisan support from the Senate Judiciary Committee; it also received support from the American Bar Association, which unanimously rated him “well qualified” to serve in this position.

In addition to the endorsement from the National Asian Pacific American